

Table 33 (page 1 of 2). Leading causes of death and numbers of deaths, according to age: United States, 1980 and 1999

[Data are based on the National Vital Statistics System]

Age and rank order	1980		1999 ¹	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
Under 1 year				
...	All causes	45,526	All causes	27,937
1.	Congenital anomalies	9,220	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	5,473
2.	Sudden infant death syndrome	5,510	Disorders related to short gestation and low birthweight, not elsewhere classified	4,392
3.	Respiratory distress syndrome	4,989	Sudden infant death syndrome	2,648
4.	Disorders relating to short gestation and unspecified low birthweight	3,648	Newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy	1,399
5.	Newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy	1,572	Respiratory distress of newborn	1,110
6.	Intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia	1,497	Newborn affected by complications of placenta, cord and membranes	1,025
7.	Unintentional injuries	1,166	Unintentional injuries	845
8.	Birth trauma	1,058	Bacterial sepsis of newborn	691
9.	Pneumonia and influenza	1,012	Diseases of circulatory system	667
10.	Newborn affected by complications of placenta, cord, and membranes	985	Atelectasis	647
1-4 years				
...	All causes	8,187	All causes	5,249
1.	Unintentional injuries	3,313	Unintentional injuries	1,898
2.	Congenital anomalies	1,026	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	549
3.	Malignant neoplasms	573	Malignant neoplasms	418
4.	Diseases of heart	338	Homicide	376
5.	Homicide	319	Diseases of heart	183
6.	Pneumonia and influenza	267	Influenza and pneumonia	130
7.	Meningitis	223	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	92
8.	Meningococcal infection	110	Septicemia	87
9.	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	84	In situ neoplasms, benign neoplasms and neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behavior	63
10.	Septicemia	71	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	54
5-14 years				
...	All causes	10,689	All causes	7,595
1.	Unintentional injuries	5,224	Unintentional injuries	3,091
2.	Malignant neoplasms	1,497	Malignant neoplasms	1,012
3.	Congenital anomalies	561	Homicide	432
4.	Homicide	415	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	428
5.	Diseases of heart	330	Diseases of heart	277
6.	Pneumonia and influenza	194	Suicide	244
7.	Suicide	142	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	139
8.	Benign neoplasms	104	In situ neoplasms, benign neoplasms and neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behavior	101
9.	Cerebrovascular diseases	95	Influenza and pneumonia	93
10.	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	85	Septicemia	77
15-24 years				
...	All causes	49,027	All causes	30,656
1.	Unintentional injuries	26,206	Unintentional injuries	13,656
2.	Homicide	6,537	Homicide	4,998
3.	Suicide	5,239	Suicide	3,901
4.	Malignant neoplasms	2,683	Malignant neoplasms	1,724
5.	Diseases of heart	1,223	Diseases of heart	1,069
6.	Congenital anomalies	600	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	434
7.	Cerebrovascular diseases	418	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	209
8.	Pneumonia and influenza	348	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease	198
9.	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	141	Cerebrovascular diseases	182
10.	Anemias	133	Influenza and pneumonia	179

See footnotes at end of table.

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Age and rank order	1980		1999 ¹	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
25–44 years				
...	All causes	108,658	All causes	130,322
1.	Unintentional injuries	26,722	Unintentional injuries	27,121
2.	Malignant neoplasms	17,551	Malignant neoplasms	20,737
3.	Diseases of heart	14,513	Diseases of heart	16,666
4.	Homicide	10,983	Suicide	11,572
5.	Suicide	9,855	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease	8,961
6.	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	4,782	Homicide	7,437
7.	Cerebrovascular diseases	3,154	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	3,709
8.	Diabetes mellitus	1,472	Cerebrovascular diseases	3,154
9.	Pneumonia and influenza	1,467	Diabetes mellitus	2,524
10.	Congenital anomalies	817	Influenza and pneumonia	1,402
45–64 years				
...	All causes	425,338	All causes	391,953
1.	Diseases of heart	148,322	Malignant neoplasms	135,748
2.	Malignant neoplasms	135,675	Diseases of heart	99,161
3.	Cerebrovascular diseases	19,909	Unintentional injuries	18,924
4.	Unintentional injuries	18,140	Cerebrovascular diseases	15,215
5.	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	16,089	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	14,407
6.	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	11,514	Diabetes mellitus	13,832
7.	Diabetes mellitus	7,977	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	12,005
8.	Suicide	7,079	Suicide	7,977
9.	Pneumonia and influenza	5,804	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease	5,056
10.	Homicide	4,019	Septicemia	4,399
65 years and over				
...	All causes	1,341,848	All causes	1,797,331
1.	Diseases of heart	595,406	Diseases of heart	607,265
2.	Malignant neoplasms	258,389	Malignant neoplasms	390,122
3.	Cerebrovascular diseases	146,417	Cerebrovascular diseases	148,599
4.	Pneumonia and influenza	45,512	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	108,112
5.	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	43,587	Influenza and pneumonia	57,282
6.	Atherosclerosis	28,081	Diabetes mellitus	51,843
7.	Diabetes mellitus	25,216	Alzheimer's disease	44,020
8.	Unintentional injuries	24,844	Unintentional injuries	32,219
9.	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis	12,968	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	29,938
10.	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	9,519	Septicemia	24,626

... Category not applicable.

¹The rank order of leading causes of death changed somewhat between 1998 and 1999, reflecting in part changes in the coding rules for selecting underlying cause of death between ICD–9 and ICD–10. For example, for persons 65 years and over, Alzheimer's disease rose from 9th to 7th.

NOTES: Cause of death code numbers in 1980 are based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision* (ICD–9). Starting in 1999 cause of death code numbers are based on ICD–10. See Appendix II, tables IV and V.

SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. *Vital statistics of the United States, vol II, mortality, part A*, 1980. Washington: Public Health Service. 1985; Hoyert DL, Smith BL, Arias E, Murphy SL. Deaths: Final data for 1999. National vital statistics reports. vol 49 no 8. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 2001.